

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5906

S E C R E T KINSHASA 0091

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CG

SUBJECT: GOZ CONCERN FOR ITS OWN SECURITY

1. SINCE JUNE OF LAST YEAR, MOBUTU HAS REGULARLY MADE THE POINT WITH US THAT ZAIRE'S SECURITY IS THREATENED BY SOVIET/CUBAN IMPLANTATION AND, MORE RECENTLY, IN CABINDA AND CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE. WE HAVE RESPONDED BY OFFERING AN INCREASE IN FMS FROM \$3.5 TO \$19 MILLION. MOBUTU IS PLEASED BY THIS EVIDENCE OF OUR SUPPORT AND AS MOVED QUICKLY TO SET IN MOTION THE OBLIGATION OF MOST OF THE \$19 MILLION FOR ONE C-130, JEEPS AND TRUCKS. DISCUSSION ARE UNDERWAY WHICH WILL PIN DOWN EARLY CONSUMMATION OF THE ABOVE CONTRACTS AND WHICH WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT ON THE ALLOCATION OF THE REMAINING FY '76 MONIES. WHILE THIS PROGRESS ON FY '76 FMS IS GRATIFYING, IT REMAINS EVIDENT THAT MOBUTU SEES THE THREAT TO HIS SECURITY COMING FROM ANGOLA AND SOVIET STRATEGY IN GENERAL AS REQUIRING MUCH MORE THAN THE \$19 WE CURRENTLY HAVE PROGRAMMED.

2. INDICATIONS OF MOBUTU'S DESIRE FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE INCLUDE THE LINE TAKEN BY GENERAL MOLONGYA WITH CHIEF ZAMISH ON DECEMBER 30. MOLONGYA POINTED OUT THAT THE FMS ITEMS NOTED IN PARA ONE, ABOVE, DO NOT ENHANCE SIGNIFICANTLY THE COMBAT POSTURE OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES. MOLONGYA INSISTED THAT HE HAD NOTHING ON THE GROUND TO DEAL WITH BORDER INCURSIONS OR STAND-OFF MORTAR/ARTILLERY ATTACKS COMING FROM ANGOLA, AND HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE US EQUIP AND TRAIN A

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COMPLETE ZAIRIAN DIVISION. INDEED, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE

TAKE OVER THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION, COMPLAINING THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD LEFT THE KAMANYOLA POORLY TRAINED AND WITHOUT SPARES FOR THE EQUIPMENT THEY HAD PROVIDED.

3. ON JANUARY 4, CONGRESSMAN BOWEN AND I MET WITH GENERAL BABIA FOR A MILITARY BRIEFING ON ANGOLA. BABIA TOOK THE OCCASION TO BRING UP ZAIRE'S SECURITY PROBLEM, HANDLING OVER A MEMORANDUM WHICH DESCRIBES ZAIRE'S UNPROTECTED FRONTIER WITH ANGOLA, AND THE VULNERABILITY OF KEY INSTALLATIONS (INGA, MATADI PORT, THE REFINERY, STEEL MILL, GECAMINES THE INGA-SHABA LINE). THE MEMO ALSO OUTLINES AN ANALYSIS MADE IN MORE DETAIL TO US BY BISENGIMANA ON JANUARY 2 WHEREBY SOVIET INTENTIONS ARE SEEN TO AIM AT CUTTING OFF ZAIRE'S IMPORT/EXPORT ROUTES (THE BENGUELA RAILROAD, EGRESS THROUGH THE MOZAMBIQUE PORT OF BEIRA, HARASSMENT BY THE TANZANIANS AT THE PORT OF KIGOMA ON LAKE TANGANYIKA).

4. THE BABIA MEMORANDUM ENDS WITH A REQUEST FOR U.S.

(A) RADARS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY

(B) ARMS TO COUNTER THE SOVIET PROVIDED MPLA INVENTORY (ROCKETS, GROUND TO GROUND MISSILES, TANKS, ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, ARMORED TROOP HELICOPTERS--AND "ONE OR TWO" SQUADRONS OF AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF COUNTERING THE MIGS).

(C) TRAINING FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE.

THE MEMO CONCLUDES WITH A "REITERATED" REQUEST FOR TRAINING OF ZAIRIAN SECURITY (INTELLIGENCE) OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. AND WITH AN OFFER TO SEND A MILITARY DELEGATION TO THE STATES TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE.

5. RGMMENT: WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE THE POINT IN REPLY TO THE FOREGOING KINDS OF REQUESTS THAT OUR INCREASE IN FMS FROM \$3.5 TO \$19 MILLION HAS SHOWN AMERICAN INTEREST IN ENHANCING ZAIRE'S SECURITY--AND THAT THIS INCREASE HAS NOT BEEN EASY TO COME BY. WE TELL MOBUTU AND HIS SENIOR MILITARY AND POLITICAL ADVISORS THAT WE ARE  
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CONVINCED THAT ZAIRE HAS A VALID MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE, ABOVE AND BEYOND THE \$19 MILLION--BUT THAT WE HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL MONIES. WE DO AGREE, HOWEVER, TO FORWARD SUCH REQUEST TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE EVENT FURTHER FUNDS WERE TO BECOME AVAILABLE. THE FACT REMAINS THAT MOBUTU DOES NOT SEE HIS SECURITY NEEDS AS BEING ADEQUATELY COVERED BY THE \$19 MILLION, AND IT IS PREDICTABLE THAT WE SHALL

CONTINUE TO BE PRESSED FOR AN INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IF THE  
SOVIETS CONTINUE THEIR ARMS DELIVERIES TO ZAIRE' S NEIGHBORS  
OR SHOULD THE MILITARY SITUATION IN ANGOLA GO BADLY.  
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